

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEIn re application of: **Roger Q. SMITH**Serial No.: **09/262,751**Filed: **March 4, 1999**For: **HEAVY DUTY AUDIO EQUIPMENT**Examiner: **R. Persino**Group Art Unit: **2681**Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231**RECEIVED**
FEB 22 2002
Technology Center 2600**DECLARATION OF MICHAEL P. GORMAN**
UNDER 37 CFR § 1.132Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

I, Michael P. Gorman, depose and state that:

1. I am a citizen of the United States of America residing at 3 Airway Circle, Apt. 3-A, Towson Maryland 21286.

2. In 1993, I began working for Black & Decker (U.S.) Inc. (hereinafter "Black & Decker") as an End User Specialist, and my present title is Senior Product Manager for the DeWalt Woodworking Machinery Business.

3. I was involved in the marketing of the DeWalt DW911 Heavy-Duty Work Site Radio/Charger ("the Radio Charger").

4. The Radio Charger has a housing, an audio circuit for producing an audio signal disposed in the housing, a charger disposed in the housing, a receptacle in the charger, a battery pack detachably connectable in a power tool mounted in the receptacle,

a first electrical circuit in the charger for charging the battery pack and for powering the audio circuit, and a connector for connecting the first electrical circuit to a power source. Accordingly, a user can dispose a power tool battery pack in the charger, providing power to the battery pack in order to charge the battery pack, and remove the battery pack from the charger, so that it can be used in a power tool.

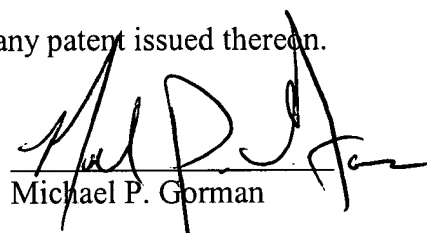
5. The Radio Charger was first sold in the market on the second quarter of 1999 ("Introduction Quarter").

6. Almost 500,000 units of the Radio Charger have been sold between the Introduction Quarter to October 31, 2001. Accordingly, the total sales in that time period is almost \$54 million dollars. I expect that these unit sales and dollar volume will increase in 2001, due to the holidays.

7. Furthermore, no other radio charger for charging power tool battery packs has been introduced in Black & Decker's major sales channels, and possibly anywhere else. Accordingly, Black & Decker's share in the market of radio charger for charging power tool battery packs is 100%.

8. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Date: January 18, 2002



Michael P. Gorman



Declaration Of John Vargo

1. I am a U.S. citizen residing in Oak Park, Illinois.
2. I have been rehabbing buildings in Chicago for the past 15 years.
3. I recently purchased a DeWalt radio and charger to use instead of a regular radio. Although I am familiar with the quality and reputation of the DeWalt products, what caused me to purchase the DeWalt charger/radio, at a price which was greater than a regular radio, was that the DeWalt product can be used as both a radio and as a battery charger at the same time. Although I still have a fully operational DeWalt battery charger, I decided that the extra cost of the charger and radio combination was worth it for several reasons.
 4. I was first impressed with the fact that the radio/charger can be powered by the same batteries I use in my power tools. This allows the radio to be played in buildings that have no electrical power. It also allows the battery that is running the radio to be used as a spare. When a battery is too low to be used in a power tool, I can usually switch the batteries and use the low power battery in the radio and the radio battery to operate the power tool.
 5. Another reason I purchased the DeWalt radio/charger was that the ability to play music encourages my crew to actually charge extra batteries when power is available. One of the first things set-up at a job-site is the radio. Because the DeWalt product holds a battery inside of it, one is usually inside the charger for ease of storage and handling. Thus, when the radio is carried to the job-site, something no one seems to forget to do, so to is the charger and attached battery. Before using the DeWalt, it was not uncommon for the charger and extra battery to be left somewhere else. Then, more often than not, when the radio is turned on, a battery is charged as well. Having fully charged batteries available is important since dead batteries can halt work. The charger and radio combination saves even more time since in one trip and hook-up the radio and charger are up and running.
5. Another reason I purchased the DeWalt radio and charger is that it is not uncommon for a building being rehabbed to have a limited number of electrical outlets. Since the radio/charger only needs one outlet, instead of the two which was needed to operate a separate radio and a separate charger, an additional outlet is available for use by some other piece of equipment. This also reduces the number of free standing electrical cords which are always a safety concern during construction.
6. Combining the charger with a radio also makes it easier for my crew to find the charger and battery. Typically, a charger and battery are not that large. As a result, they are sometimes misplaced or hidden from view by the materials and garbage found on a work site. The music from the radio makes it nearly impossible to lose the battery and charger.
7. I have been in the construction business for over 15 years and I have never seen another product that can work as both a charger and as a radio. As I stated above, the benefits received

from the DeWalt being able to work as both a radio and charger so that music can be played while a battery is charging as well as being operable by a battery are the reasons that caused me to purchase the DeWalt radio and charger.

8. I declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the patent application or patent issued thereon for which I understand that this declaration is being used.

Dated: 1-18-02


John Vargo



Declaration Of John Ziganto

1. I am a U.S. citizen residing in La Grange Park, Illinois.
2. I am a professional tradesman that works in remodeling, fence construction and on movie sets. I have been involved in the construction trade for over 25 years.
3. I recently purchased a DeWalt Radio Charger. What influenced me to purchase the product was its versatility. The DeWalt product can be used as a both a radio and as a battery charger. This dual use provides a contractor, such as myself, with several benefits that justified spending more money for the product than a standard radio.
4. For example, two of the most common devices found today on a job-site are a radio and a battery charger. A radio helps the time pass and a charger is needed because of the widespread use of battery operated power tools in the construction field. A dead battery can stop the progress of work. Prior to purchasing the DeWalt Radio Charger, I would typically carry and set up a separate radio and a separate charger. Because of the dual use of the DeWalt product, I am now able to do the carrying and set up in a single step instead of two or more steps. Another benefit of the DeWalt Radio Charger is that the unit houses a battery in it. This allows an extra battery to be easily carried to the work site. Prior to purchasing the DeWalt Radio Charger, I often needed to carry a separate radio, a separate charger, and a separate battery to the work site. Because the DeWalt Radio Charger functions as both a charger and a radio, it saves set-up time.
5. Another reason I purchased the DeWalt Radio Charger is that only a single electrical cord needs to be plugged into an outlet to operate the device. This is important because the job sites I work at often have limited access to electrical power. This is especially true when I work outdoors on fences. Prior to purchasing the DeWalt Radio Charger, I needed to plug a separate charger and radio into an outlet. Now, I just need to use a single outlet to play a radio and to charge my batteries. In addition, the elimination of a power cord creates a safer work area since it eliminates the use of a power cord which reduces the chance of entanglement.
6. Another advantage of the DeWalt Radio Charger is that it makes it easier for me to find the spare battery. When the radio is operating and charging a battery, it is nearly impossible to misplace the charger and battery. This is important when working outside and on job sites where construction materials and debris can easily obstruct a standard battery charger and battery from view.
7. That the DeWalt Radio Charger can also be operated by the same battery it recharges is another reason I purchased the product. I often work outdoors where there is no electric power. Because the DeWalt Radio Charger can be powered by the same battery it charges, I can still have music while I work. Another advantage of the interchangeable battery is that if a battery I am using in a power tool loses power, I can switch the batteries. The radio does not require that much power and will work fine with a low

battery that generally cannot be used to effectively operate a power tool. Moreover, the battery that was in the radio will often have enough charge to operate the power tool. Thus, the battery that operates the radio can be treated like a spare.

8. During my 25 years in the construction trade, I have never seen another product that functions as a radio and battery charger and where the battery that is being charged can operate a power tool and the radio as well. It is this versatility that caused me to purchase the DeWalt Radio Charger.
9. I declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the patent application or patent issued thereon for which I understand that this declaration is being used.

Dated: Jan 17-02


John Ziganto

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The Pennsylvania Housing Research Center

Volume 6 Issue 2

Volume 6

PHRC News



The Pennsylvania Housing Research Center (PHRC) serves the home building industry and the residents of Pennsylvania by improving the quality and affordability of housing. The PHRC conducts applied research, fosters the development and commercialization of innovative technologies, and transfers appropriate technologies to the housing community.

Getting in touch

Contact us to find out more about the PHRC or to seek assistance.

www.engr.psu.edu/phrc/

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"Innovations Without Headaches" gets good reviews

The PHRC's seventh annual conference/workshop was well received by builders, remodelers and others in the housing industry. It focused on providing solutions to participants on several issues facing the housing industry. Some of the sessions included:

Class Action: Discussion of several key class-action legal suits that have impacted the housing industry.

Comfort Without Cost? Where has the housing industry gone in tackling energy efficiency problems? This session looked at where we have been and where we are heading and some of the unwanted consequences of our efforts.

Exterior Insulation Finish Systems (EIFS) – how to avoid common mistakes and moisture problems.

Other sessions looked at pressures in houses, housewrap in walls, steel framing, and innovation and building codes.

The conference was sponsored by the PHRC, the Pennsylvania State University, and the Pennsylvania Builders' Association.

What builders and remodelers need to know about building codes

The PHRC, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Builders Association, held a building codes workshop for builders in Warrendale, PA on November 6, 1998. This three-hour workshop provided an overview of building code requirements, recent and upcoming changes in model codes, and how to increase code compliance by understanding the most common code violations.

PHRC initiates study on site improvement standards

Site improvement standards regulate how land is developed by establishing minimum standards for infrastructure such as road construction, parking, stormwater management systems, sanitary sewer, water supply and other utilities. These standards are intended to result in acceptable minimum performance of these systems and to provide some assurance as to the serviceability of the systems for those groups responsible for their long-term operation and maintenance. In Pennsylvania, these standards are established at the local government level (township, borough, or city).

This project is intended to be a preliminary investigation and includes the following tasks:

1. review the contemporary policy in other states (particularly New Jersey) regarding residential site improvement standards;
2. provide a general overview of the existing site improvement standards used in the Commonwealth;
3. evaluate the need for, and benefits of, a statewide site improvement standard in Pennsylvania;
4. evaluate the potential effectiveness of suggested best practice or voluntary model site improvement standards.

For more information on this project, please contact Mark Fortney at (814) 863-2366 or mrf106@psu.edu.

What's hot and what's cool from the Dallas NAHB Show

Each year building material manufacturers coordinate the release of their new products with the National Association of Home Builders Show. This show, with its 70,000+ participants, is the largest convention in the world. The following are some of the innovative products and equipment that we saw at the show. The descriptions do not imply endorsement of any of these products.



Put your tape away

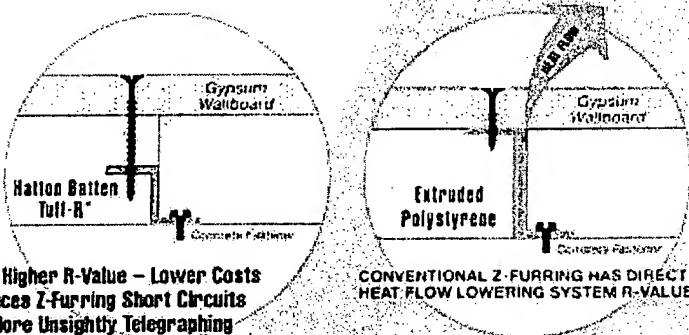
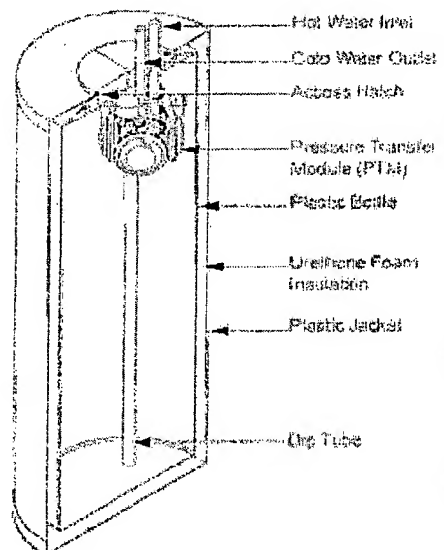
Louisiana-Pacific has a new oriented strand board (OSB) called Visual Precision that provides carpenters with short cuts in measuring and marking. The 4x8 ft. sheets have a primary one-foot grid and a secondary one-inch grid printed directly on the board. Many cuts can be made directly from the markings without the need for and measuring or snapping lines. Once the sheets are installed, you won't have to guess where to drive the fasteners to hit the studs or joists. Simply count the squares. The boards are available in one thickness only (7/16"). For additional information, contact Louisiana-Pacific at www.lpcorp.com or (800) 648-6893.

Rethinking the water heater

Water heaters are built in basically the same way as they were 60 years ago: Steel tanks to withstand 150 psi pressure with high pressure and temperature relief safety valves. This new concept uses a storage tank at atmospheric pressure. This means that you do not need a high pressure steel tank or the temperature and pressure relief valves.

The new system is called BEST (Better Electric Storage Tank). It consists of a rustproof urethane tank insulated with 3 inches of urethane foam (R-25) with a polyurethane exterior shell. The 80 gallon tank weighs about 80 pounds.

The heart of the new system is the pressure transfer module (PTM) which is basically a hydraulic diaphragm pump. The PTM uses the incoming cold water to pump out the hot water. The BEST system will carry a 15 year transferable warranty. For additional information, contact Vaughn Manufacturing Corp. at www.vaughncorp.com or (978) 462-6497.



40% Higher R-Value - Lower Costs
Reduces Z-Furring Short Circuits
No More Unsightly Telegraphing

Improving the performance of insulated sheathing

The Celotex Corporation has introduced a new system for attaching insulated sheathing that is intended to reduce the thermal bridging across fasteners. The new system, called Hatton Batten, uses a Z clip or baton with Celotex's Kurf-R insulated sheathing. This system embeds the fastener in the insulation and eliminates thermal bridging associated with typical Z furring installations. For additional information, contact Celotex Corporation, PO Box 31602, Tampa, FL 33631.

A job-site radio with an attitude

DeWalt Industrial Tool Company is introducing a job-site-radios with a difference. The radio is made of the same black and yellow impact-resistant plastic as their tools; it has a roll-bar to protect it; the knobs are oversized so they can be used by hands with work gloves on; and it can run off either line voltage or a DeWalt battery pack. **But get this** If you are using 120 volt line power, it serves as a battery charger. It will charge any voltage battery pack that DeWalt makes (9.6V to 18V). Look for it in the tool section of your building supply center by mid-year.

The Pennsylvania Housing Research Center

Publication Order Form



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61	Building Code Training Needs in Pennsylvania (NEW)	\$25.00		
58	Steel-Stud-Framed Wall Systems (to be released in May)	\$25.00		
65	Training and Education Needs Assessment for the Home Building and Remodeling Industry in Pennsylvania (to be released in May)	\$25.00		
Software				
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☐ Please send me information on becoming a member of the PHRC.

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 ATTN: Michelle McMullen
 219 Sackett Building
 University Park, PA 16802**

PHRC releases a series of reports

The PHRC has recently released the following technical reports:

Report #61 – Building Code Training Needs: This report discusses the building-code-related training and education needs in Pennsylvania. It provides an overview of both existing training needs and the anticipated training needs when, or if, a state-wide building code is enacted. The intended audiences include policy makers at the state and local government levels, providers of building code training, educators, and residential construction and remodeling associations.

Report # 59 – The Use of Housewrap in Walls: Installation, Performance, and Implications: This project was directed at the in-service performance of various housewrap products and included an infield survey of installation practices and laboratory testing of various products, including building paper.

Report #56 – The Importance of the Modular Housing Industry in Pennsylvania: This report looks at the size and makeup of the modular housing industry, its economic impact in Pennsylvania, and factors that may be impeding the industry's growth.

Report #65 – Training and Education Needs Assessment for the Home Building and Remodeling Industry in Pennsylvania: This report looks at the training and educational needs, opportunities, and the market demand versus supply for labor. Its intended audience includes industry members and association leaders, educators, instructors, government agencies and workforce-development policy makers.

The following are some of the questions addressed by the report:

- What do members and leaders of the home building and remodeling industry, and educators think is needed in terms of training and educational opportunities for:
 - vo-tech or post-secondary students,
 - entry-level building trade and craft workers,
 - supervisors and managers in residential construction,
 - technical and professional workers in the industry?
- What training and education opportunities are available for those in the home building and remodeling industry in PA?
- Where can one go to find out what knowledge and skills are needed for:
 - an entry-level framing carpenter?
 - a house building contractor?
 - an experienced residential electrical contractor?
- What will the future look like for the market demand for workers compared to the likely supply of trained labor?

Copies of these reports can be ordered from the PHRC for \$25 each, to cover copying and shipping costs.

PHRC kicking off educational offerings for 1999

For more than a decade the PHRC has served the housing industry in Pennsylvania by carrying out applied research and delivering education and training to the home building industry. The PHRC draws resources and expertise from both the Pennsylvania State University at University Park and the Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport.

For 1999, the PHRC is planning a series of workshops to be held in the fall in three locations across the state. The intended audiences include builders, remodelers, building trades instructors, building code officials, and others involved in the home building industry. As a result of industry input, the PHRC developed a list of 14 possible topics for workshops. The workshop topics focused on new and emerging technologies and how to make effective use of them. From this list, the following five workshops have been identified as the highest priority from local and regional associations interested in sponsoring training for their members:

- Cure of the common callback
- Building with engineered lumber
- Homes that can meet the needs of our aging population
- Introduction to building codes
- Code compliance workshop

If these topics coincide with your organization's training needs or initiatives, we are still looking for local and regional partners to help promote the workshops and solicit your members' participation. **If your local or regional association signs on as a partner, their members will receive a significant discount on registration fees.** For more information, please contact Mark Fortney at (814) 863-2366 or MFortney@psu.edu.

We're on the Web
www.engr.psu.edu/phrc/

The Pennsylvania Housing Research Center
219 Sackett Building
University Park, PA 16802
Phone: 814-865-2341
Fax: 814-863-7304

PHRC announces speaker service to local associations

As a service to the home building and remodeling industry in Pennsylvania, the PHRC is offering a speaker service to local and regional associations. The PHRC will provide short (15 to 45 minutes) technical sessions intended to provide an understanding of the problems builders and remodelers may be facing.

The PHRC is prepared to discuss a variety of technical subjects including:

- The use of housewrap
- Steel Framing – doing it right
- Innovative Foundation Systems
- Crawlspace Construction & Ventilation
- Engineered Wood Products

If you are interested in having a presentation in conjunction with your local association's meetings, contact Mark Fortney at the PHRC at (814) 863-2366 or mfortney@psu.edu.

Membership

A vital portion of the financial support for the PHRC is obtained from membership fees. Financial and other forms of support for the PHRC are very important. Industry-based funding, individual or corporate or association, is critical for our continued operation. We warmly welcome the new members of the PHRC. We thank new and existing members for their support of the PHRC and its efforts to serve the home building industry in Pennsylvania.

New Members

ACCADIA
Cedar Knoll Associates
Dow Chemical Company

Lackawanna Home Builders Association
Pennsylvania Manufactured Housing Association
Pocono Builders Association

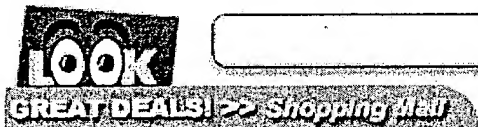
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Liberty Homes Custom Builders
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Raycore, Inc.
Ryland Group, Inc.

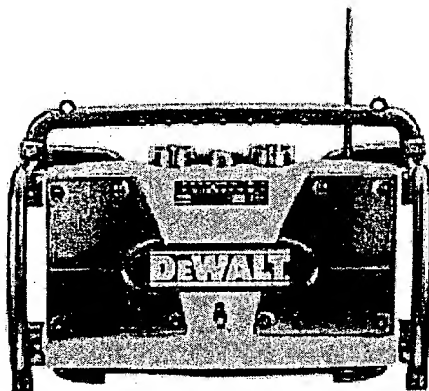
S&A Custom Built Homes, Inc.
Builders Association of Central PA
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HBA of Chester and Delaware Counties
HBA of Metro Harrisburg
Lebanon County Builders Association
Lehigh Valley Builders Association
Mid-Atlantic Building Systems Council
Pennsylvania Builders Association
Pennsylvania Concrete Masonry Association
PA Dept of Community & Economic Development
York County Builders Association

DeWalt Radio/Charger

ask**ToolTALK**.com



DeWalt
DW911
Work Site Radio/Charger
Priced under \$130.00
Reviewed by Leon A. Frechette
9/11/00



Nothing is more discouraging than to have a battery on your cordless tool die—just as you near the end of your project. Even worse is to reach for your spare (if you have one) only to find it dead because you forgot to charge it. It's terrible that we have become so reliant on cordless tools that we forget that somewhere a corded tool is buried in a toolbox that would complete the project. What do you do? My guess is that you'll reach for the charger and wait an hour for the battery to recharge. Why not charge it with a little class? How about a

listening to your favorite radio station while the battery does its thing? Well, now you can!

DeWalt has just came out with a worksite radio/charger combination that does just that—charges batteries and plays your favorite radio station. This product is unbelievable. The AM-FM full- stereo radio delivers sound that could easily match a full-blown stereo system. What makes this unit different from other radios on the market is that DeWalt has combined the technology of a three-stage charging system with a radio which can run off AC, a portable generator, or up to 12 hours on a single battery (their own make). I made it to about 13 hours and then it was

This is a 1-hour battery charger that will handle DeWalt NiCd batteries from 9.6V to 18V. The three-stage charging system:

- quickly brings a battery pack to full charge;
- brings each cell to an equally full level;
- and allows the battery pack to remain in the charger for extended periods to keep it fully charged and ready for use.

The charger will not accept batteries made by other companies; however, listening to the radio you can use a battery from 9.6V to 18V. I tested the unit with an 18V battery. The 10-watt radio volume equates to about 92 dB (decibels). For those who don't understand how loud this actually is, well, an auto horn only three feet away will reach 110 dB. The volume control has 7 settings; I was at 4 in a quiet room and it was loud enough for me. They tell me the unit can be heard over a portable generator or circular saw when the volume is set at max. I don't think I'm willing to try it to find out.

The radio is water-resistant—not waterproof—and has sealed control knobs in a

plastic case. It is also built like a tank! It sports DeWalt's yellow-and-black color combination and has a protective roll cage with rubber shock mounts built around the unit to help it withstand drops which may occur out on the job site. I will continue to monitor the unit during a construction project over the next 6 months to see just how well the unit holds up, and I'll keep you updated with any findings. The speaker grills are made of rust-resistant steel. The unit weighs about 13.5 pounds. One thing I noticed right away is the storage area on the bottom for a flexible electrical cord. Out of sight, out of mind. They also include an auxiliary input for a CD player—cool! If you'd like to listen to great tunes as you charge your batteries, this puppy is for you.

I would like to see a couple of additions to the unit. One would be to have a second charger built in to the system; however, this one would be a supercharger similar to the one they used to make the DW9090 so other manufacturers' batteries could be charged. If you are like me, you don't rely on just one brand. Also, if this is a workstation, why not have a receptacle outlet built into the back? It seems only natural if you are plugged in to have the option for an extra outlet.

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List Price: \$170.29

Our Price: \$129.99

You Save: \$40.30 (24%)

Editorial Reviews

Amazon.com

Wimpy radios break down on the job site after a few weeks of bumps and knocks. That's why it's time to step up to DeWalt's brawny radio/battery charger with its tough-guy, dune-buggy-style protective roll bar. Winner of *Business Week's* Silver Award for Consumer Product Design, DeWalt's AM/FM boom box not only rocks the house, it also charges your 7.2- to 18-volt ni-cad batteries in just one hour. Built tough with cushioning rubber stops, DeWalt's radio can take a 6- to 8-foot drop without skipping a beat. The guts are completely weatherproof against rain, snow, dust, and debris, while a silicone coating on the speakers resists cracking and keeps dust from building up. The bendable antenna resists destruction. Is there a downside? Not really. The reception isn't quite what we'd like inside metal or concrete buildings, but that's it. The radio/charger plugs in with a standard cord, and out of reach of a convenient power source, the radio will also run off 7.2- to 18-volt DeWalt batteries. (Note: this radio does not accept DW 9051, 9050, 904, or 9046 batteries.) If CDs and tapes are more your style, plug your Discman or tape deck into the auxiliary port. Is it time to get rid of that beat-up blaster and crank your tunes with a tool that's designed to be job site tough? --Justin Paul

Experts are standing by to answer questions about any of the tools in our store. Call us toll free at (866) 876-8073, Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. CDT, and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. CDT. Or, e-mail us at amazon-tools-support@amazon.com.

From the Manufacturer

Not just an ordinary work site radio, it also charges 9.6-volt through 18-volt

Email Me When Available

This item is not in stock, but we'd be glad to notify you by e-mail when the DeWalt DW911 Job Site Radio & Battery Charger (9.6V-18V DeWalt NiCd Batteries) is available for purchase. Simply enter your e-mail address, and click Go.

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DeWalt batteries. To top it all off, it will play up to eight hours from a DeWalt battery if electricity is not available. The radio is AM/FM and has an auxiliary port to facilitate use of CD players; the charger is a one-hour battery charger. The high-impact roll cage, steel speaker grills, and weather resistant body are just a few of the features that will keep the DW911 operating in the toughest work environments. Measures 20 by 10 by 12 inches (length by width by height). BATTERY NOT INCLUDED. One year warranty, one year service contract, 30 day no-risk trial.

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**BUILDING MATERIAL
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MINNEAPOLIS, MN
MONTHLY 4,082
FEBRUARY 1999



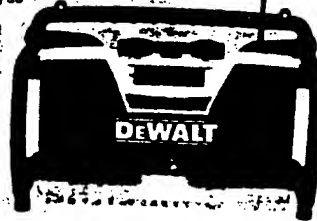
BURRELLE'S

7780
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Turn Up The Volume

The DW911 from DeWalt functions both as a charger for the entire line of DeWalt NiCD battery packs as well as a heavy-duty radio, durable enough to withstand demanding worksite conditions. When plugged into an AC outlet, it recharges all DeWALT 9.6 volt to 18 volt NiCD battery packs in less than one hour while simultaneously functioning as a radio. Boasting oversized speakers and a high efficiency amplifier, the DW911 features a protective roll cage, perforated steel speaker grills, weather-resistant controls and a flexible rubber antenna.



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Stashable slickers . . .

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BY RIMA SUQI



(Click on links to view images)

Glass Menagerie

Karim Rashid calls his New Move collection of glass objects "very me." And indeed, the shapes are classic Rashid -- organic and colorful -- but with a twist. Right-side up, they're decanters or vases; turn them over and they become footed bowls or simply objets d'art. The items in the collection range from \$98 to \$285 and come in both clear and colored glass.

TOTEM GALLERY

83 Grand Street/212-219-2446

Buzz Thrill

Using power tools and listening to loud music go hand in hand. DeWalt's new combination radio-battery charger, built specially for use on work sites, bows to this ignoble tradition. Simply place the DeWalt battery pack in the back of the radio, and it will charge in about an hour. Buy it for your contractor. After he finishes the job (\$199).

LONDON TRUE VALUE HARDWARE

191 Ninth Avenue, near 21st Street/212-243-5266

GO! Modern Love

For those still pining over the Kaleidoscope, last year's incredibly popular modernist dollhouse, here's your chance to play house without making such a great financial or space commitment. A new book, *Eames House*, by James Barkley, includes previously unpublished pictures of the modernist masters' Los Angeles home plus three perforated sheets that can be assembled into three-dimensional replicas of the house (American Vessel, \$45). |

MXYPLYZYK

125 Greenwich Avenue/212-989-4300

Faking It

This fun new toy, called the Voice Changer, lets you change your voice to sound like a robot -- à la R2-D2 -- or a slightly possessed child. Made by Boxer, it comes in three colors: green, red, and navy (\$20).

E.A.T. GIFTS

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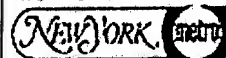
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1062 Madison Avenue, near 80th Street/212-861-2544
VOICE CHANGER PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL KRAUS.

City Slicker

Packing a suitcase may be an art, but it isn't brain surgery. You just need to pick the right items. Like this raincoat from Longchamp's Pliages collection. Folded, it fits into a five-by-six-inch case with a chic leather handle. Unfolded, it's a full-length nylon slicker. Available in nine colors (\$175).

LONGCHAMP

713 Madison Avenue, at 63rd Street/212-223-1500

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From the March 12, 2001
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BURRELLE'S

279
PAGE

From mundane to insane — see it at show

By R. MICHELLE BREYER
Cox News Service

4518A
DALLAS — Three days at the International Builders Show is an exercise in endurance.

Over the course of a long weekend in mid-January, I joined the more than 70,000 people who poured into the Dallas Convention Center to see the latest home products — from the mundane to the over-the-top.

There was little elbow room in the narrow aisles as I perused more than a million square feet of exhibition space spread over two floors (the equivalent of nearly 20 football fields), my arms weighed down by brochures and my senses assaulted by the flash and abundance of it all. An entire 3,175-square-foot house was built on one showroom floor.

Over at the General Electric booth, Martin Yan of PBS's *Yan Can Cook* gave demonstrations to show off the company's kitchen appliances. The Lennox man (or at least the actor who plays the congenial handyman in the ads) was decked out in his overalls at the Lennox stand. In a booth that seemed to always attract a crowd, lean, scantily clad women showed off the latest exercise equipment (because nobody can figure out how a treadmill works on their own).

Windows and doors, siding and floors. Faucets in every size and shape. Showers designed to douse you from every possible angle. High-tech vacuum cleaners. It was all there, and then some.

Here are a few products that stood out from the rest because of their whimsy or their innovation. They may, or may not, make their way into the homes of the future.

M-I-C-K-E-Y

The Disneyfication of the world has hit the bathroom.

Kohler Co., a leader in kitchen and bath design, recently introduced its Disney Collection — a collection of bathroom faucets and sinks that showcase Mickey Mouse.

"This line allows consumers to distinctively bring one of the world's most famous icons into their bathrooms," said Elisabeth Sotton, Kohler's senior product manager.

The sinks range from \$400 to \$772, while the faucets run from \$250 to \$708. The Mickey "Shadow" sink, complete with bands of 24-karat gold, and the matching chrome faucet sell for \$1,152.

They are available at Kohler-registered showrooms.

SUPER STOVE!

It can broil a sirloin steak in seven minutes, roast a whole chicken in 20 minutes or bake a potato in 10 minutes flat.

General Electric unveiled a new speed-cooking oven, which will be available in October.

Using light waves, this new oven cooks four to five times faster than conventional ovens. Light

waves cook the outside of food much like conventional heat, but also penetrate the surface so the inside is cooked at the same time. The oven requires no preheating and can convert to a microwave oven with a touch of a button.

The oven will sell for between \$1,000 and \$1,200.

SEEING CLEARLY

So you're sick of stepping out of your shower to a foggy mirror. Electric Mirror Co. of Lynnwood, Wash., has introduced an electric defogger.

The defogger prevents steam by warming the mirror. It uses 110 watts and a 120-volt power supply and adheres to the back of the mirror.

STONE FACE

They can culture a pearl. So why not cultured stone?

Cultured stone, which has been around for nearly 40 years, was one of the hot products at the Builders Show. Cultured Stone Corp.'s products come in 20 stone and brick textures, ranging from rough-hewn ledge stone to round river-rock textures.

"The manufactured stone is cast in molds made from the natural stone," said Lisa Heathman, spokeswoman for Cultured Stone. "That's why it looks so real."

Because it is made with concrete, iron-oxide pigments and other aggregates, it is lighter than natural stone. Because it is a veneer product, it is easier to install than either full-thickness natural stone or brick.

With rising prices of natural stone products, the cultured stone products have become increasingly popular. You don't need a stonemason to install it, so it tends to be half the price of real stone. Installed, it costs \$7 to \$12 a square foot.

FORGET THE EVIAN

Faucet giant Moen recently introduced a new model of its year-old PureTouch filtering faucet system for the kitchen sink.

The new loop-handle Pure-Touch, with a pull-out spout, reduces water impurities and odors while keeping fluoride intact. For normal unfiltered water, you turn on the faucet as usual. To switch to filtered water, you can touch a button on the faucet wand.

An electric filter-life indicator provides visual and audible information on the life of the filter. The faucets range from \$400 to \$415, depending on the finish. For Austin locations, call 877-DRINK-H2O.

GET A CHARGE

What do you get when you cross a radio with a battery charger? The DW911 by DeWalt High Performance Industrial Power Tools.

It sounds like it could have come from the mind of Tim "the Tool Man" Taylor on *Home*

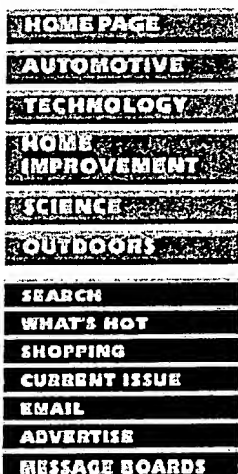
Improvement. This heavy-duty product, designed for professional tradesmen, functions as both a radio and a charger, which can recharge the entire line of DeWalt battery packs. The radio can operate on a single charge for up to a

full eight-hour work day, so you'll never have to hammer away in silence.

The DW911, which will retail for about \$150, will be available in June at home improvement stores.


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THE ROUGH GET TOUGH

Get your electronics ruggedized for hard work and play.

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"You work hard, you play hard and you live hard. It's a shame many of the wimpy electronics you rely on can't take the bruises you can. All it takes is one ill-timed recline on a cramped airplane and your PC screen is toast. Drop your radio down a flight of stairs and goodbye Howard Stern. Leave your cellphone in the rain and you've lost contact with the world.

To assist you with your punishing lifestyle, a few manufacturers are trying to toughen up. Water-resistant buttons, rubber controls and rugged housings are some of the designs companies are using to make products better able to weather the elements and rough human handling. It's still not a good idea to toss your laptop into the pool no matter how fed up you get with Windows, but pick the right product and you can get away with a lot more abuse.

DeWalt DW911 Radio/Charger

Leave it to engineers at the industrial tool company DeWalt to come up with a radio that can survive a construction accident. It also comes with a battery charger. The DeWalt DW911 hybrid radio/charger (\$149) rejuices all DeWalt nickel-cadmium battery packs from 9.6 to 18 volts for the company's line of cordless power tools. The DW911 uses a single AC outlet, an important consideration at job sites where electrical power





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can be scarce. The roll cage and rubber shock mounts protect the unit if it's dropped or kicked down the stairs. Rubber grommets insulate the controls—which are oversize for use with workman gloves—against moisture or damaging drywall dust. A silicon coating covers speaker grilles to guard against oxidation from moisture, but the radio is not submersible. The radio housing is made of glass-filled nylon, the same material used in motorcycle and football helmets, and there's a rubber antenna that flexes on impact. On the sound side, the 10-watt stereo radio claims output of 92 dB, loud enough to be heard above drilling and hammering. Dimensions are 16 in. wide x 8 in. deep x 11 in. high, and weight is a hefty 11 pounds.

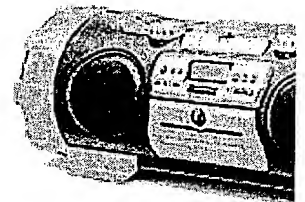
JVC Kaboom Boombox

There's only so much abuse that a boombox can take, but the JVC Kaboom RV-B99 (\$330) can bear up better than most. The tubular design gives it more reinforcement than rectangular styling so if you bump the box, the housing is less likely to crack. The protective hard plastic end caps double as handles, or you can carry the Kaboom using the supplied shoulder strap. Since it's 21 pounds without batteries, you're more likely to use the box's AC power connection than to power it with 10 D batteries. You can also buy an optional \$25 adapter and play Kaboom through a car's cigarette lighter. Cassette and CD mechanisms are shielded against blowing sand and dust by plastic parts inside the doors. Power output is impressive for a portable, with 20 watts per side pumping out bass through 6.5-in. woofers and another 6 watts per side going to the mid- to high-frequency drivers. The tube's microphone input with level control works for a guitar input or karaoke mike, and you can record your own mixes to tape. Sources include a single CD player, auto-reverse cassette recorder and AM/FM radio with 45 presets.

Panasonic Toughbook Laptop

The average failure rate for laptops is 20 percent, according to a survey of 350 corporations by market research firm International Data Corp.,

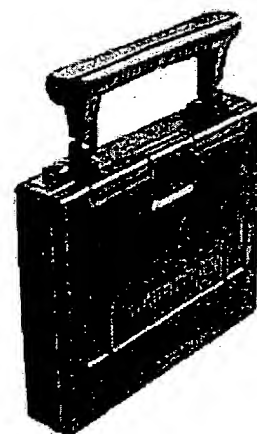
DEWALT DW911



JVC KABOOM RV-



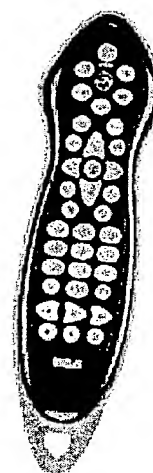
and that's largely due to free falls and coffee on the keyboard. Panasonic's answer to laptop abuse is the Toughbook series of PCs, which sport magnesium cases, water-resistant keyboards and shock mounting for hard disks and LCDs. The magnesium casing is said to provide 20 times the strength of a typical ABS plastic housing, and Toughbooks are built to MIL-810E hazardous environment specs for drops (up to 3 ft.), high temperatures, moisture and dust. Wrapping the hard disk in sorbethane (the same material used in many running shoes) provides a secondary line of defense against bumps. Go ahead, knock over an entire thermos of coffee onto the keyboard. The company says the Toughbook will work in standing liquid for a reasonable length of time. The 3.6-pound Toughbook 34 subnotebook (about \$3000 plus \$1000 for wireless communication capability) bundles an Intel Celeron 266-MHz microprocessor, 4.3GB hard disk, 32MB of RAM and a 56K modem.



PANASONIC TOUGHBOOK

RCA RCU510 Remote Control

A plethora of remote controls drown each year in a pool of Coke—but RCA has come to the rescue. The company's RCU510 universal remote control (\$30) has a rubber plastic gasket and a membrane keypad that clean up easily from spills, dust, grease and grime. The yellow-trimmed remote also passes RCA's drop test—5 ft. onto a hardwood floor. RCA designers cooked up the membrane remote concept for the company's kitchen TVs and are now marketing the concept throughout the house and even out to the garage where TVs are finding new homes in messy environments. Preprogrammed with the infrared codes to operate all Thomson TVs, DVD players, satellite receivers and audio components, the RCU510 also packs codes from most competitors' products. It also controls the Gemstar Guide Plus+ onscreen program guide and features a code saver that enables you to change batteries without losing the codes.



RCA RCU510 REMOTE

Rockustics Speakers

If you spend a lot of time on the deck or by the

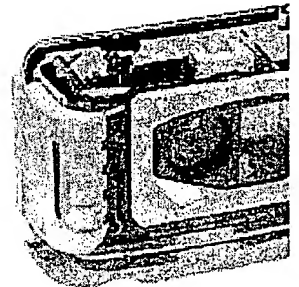
pool, you want your tunes outside. These Rockustics outdoor loudspeakers are specifically designed to withstand moisture, sun and extreme temperatures. They're also disguised as yard gear. Some look like large rocks, while others are built into planters. The weathered speakers (\$1000 a pair) are part of the Stonewall series, which Rockustics will color-match to your rock wall samples to ensure a uniform look. The 26-in.-wide x 10-in.-high x 6-in.-deep speaker cabinets are sealed with silicone and made of crushed stone and resins that have been tested to withstand ultraviolet rays, heat, rain, snow and wind. Speaker baskets are made of nylon rather than the typical metal and all screws are stainless steel to prevent oxidation. The surround material holding the speaker cone to the basket is made of pure rubber rather than the typical butyl so that the surround remains pliable and won't impede the excursion of the cone. Rated to handle power of 100 watts per channel, the speakers come with a "zero defects" lifetime guarantee, but it doesn't hold if you drive the speakers beyond their limit.



ROCKUSTICS

Kodak Sport Water Housing

You can take the Kodak DC210 camera (\$499) snorkeling with you if you shell out another \$199 for the scratch-resistant, hard plastic waterproof housing. Tested to seal out water down to 3 meters, the clamshell housing is built around a butyl rubber O-ring that fits into a groove inside the housing. The case is specifically built to the dimensions and features of the DC210, allowing the camera's 2x optical zoom and wide angle functions to operate fully. The housing has a safety latch to prevent accidental opening down under. The housing was also designed to be used on ski trips or in other outdoor situations where the camera and lens need to be protected against the elements. You can use any antifog spray to treat the interior of the housing and ensure a clear line of sight.



KODAK SPORT WATER

Aiwa XP-SP90 Portable CD Player

Sure it's portable, but is it joggable? That's the big question when it comes to portable CD players, which can mistrack and skip if the journey's too

bumpy. Aiwa's XP-SP90 (\$110) is part of the company's Cross Trainer line of products, which have rubber gaskets to keep out moisture, dirt and sand, and rubber bumpers to prevent scratching and dents. Like many water-resistant products, the player can be exposed to water but won't likely survive a dunking. Aiwa builds in an electronic antishock system that's said to have extended horizontal motion tolerance and more precise laser pickup servo control than the typical CD portable. The idea is to protect against skipping at the source rather than having to rely on a memory buffer to store music if the play skips a beat. But just in case, there's 40-second memory backup, too. The lid latch is extra secure to ensure that the disc won't dislodge during play, and the battery compartment is located inside the player to keep batteries from spilling out. The supplied headphones, also water resistant, wrap around the neck and over the ears, which the company says makes for a more comfortable and secure fit.



AIWA XP-SP90 PORTA

Ericsson R250s Pro Rock Phone

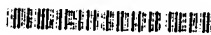
Being dropped can be murder on a cellphone, but Ericsson's R250s Pro Rock phone was designed to handle a 2-meter fall. Built to MIL-810E specs, the 9-ounce Rock stands up to driving rain, salt air, fog, fungus, moisture, dust, sand and more, having passed rigorous shake and bake tests at an MIL spec testing facility. A high-strength, temperature-resistant fiber membrane developed by Gore-Tex maker Gore & Associates protects the internal mechanism, and the body of the phone is encased in a magnesium frame reinforced with a rubber housing. The earpiece speaker, which also operates as a speakerphone, is water resistant as well. The trimode TDMA phone operates in the 800-MHz digital, 1900-MHz digital and 800-MHz analog bands and also operates as a nationwide two-way radio with broadcast capability for up to 96 people. Battery life is 4 hours talk time or 80 hours standby. Cellphone features include silent call alert, 150-name phone directory and one-button speed dial.



ERICSSON R250S PRC

PRINTER FRIENDLY VERSION





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HOME TRENDS

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■ GARDEN ERGONOMICS

Gardening is America's No. 1 hobby but it comes at a price; sore hands and arms from hard work in the dirt.

That's why V&B Manufacturing designed its line of Mini-Groundbreakers.

The tools (pictured) are designed for hammer-swing action that allows the toolhead to do most of the work, thereby reducing the wrenching wrist action usually required by hand trowels, cultivators and other small garden tools. They also feature a vibration-absorbing cushion grip to further reduce wrist and arm pain from gardening.

The tool set includes a planter, tiller and pick with multi-purpose heads for a variety of tasks. Each tool sells for about \$15 at home and garden centers.

■ ROLLING WORKSHOP

ZAG, the Stanley Works' subsidiary, has come up with a mobile storage system (all right, plastic boxes on wheels) that actually combines three storage systems in one.

The Rolling Workshop features a heavy-

duty tool-box, professional-style drawer organizers and a deep storage bin. The units can be stacked together to form a complete system or used independently.

Additional features include a retractable wheel-like device that can accommodate 50 feet of electrical

cable, a side-mounted restraining cord for those longer items and a retractable handle.

Suggested retail

price: \$55.

It is marketed as a Craftsman item at Sears, Roebuck & Co. stores, according to John Gates, a Stanley spokesman. Information: 800-782-6539 or www.stanley-works.com/.

■ BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

A visit to a designer's home will reveal some of the best professional secrets. That's the idea behind Metropolitan Home's expanded "What the Pros Know" feature in the upcoming March/April issue.

Designer Benjamin Noriega-Ortiz splashed the walls of his home with a bold

color and kept the furniture white (pictured). It makes the furniture look like sculpture, he says. He also suggests doing a whole room in one color, even the furniture.

Other secrets: use texture, not patterns, in a small apartment to give it a sense of openness; and you can stain new tiles to recreate the look of old French terra cotta floors.

■ MUSICAL CHARGE

It won't be available to the public till midyear according to the fellow at the booth, but DeWalt Tools has come up with

a way to recharge power tool batteries and listen to music at the same time.

It's called the Heavy Duty Work Site Radio (DW 911). The charger, which can handle batteries for DeWalt power tools from 9.6 to 18 volts, is in the back of the AM-FM radio, which, as you can imagine, is mighty powerful for use at a work site.

It's also weather-resistant. The suggested retail price is \$150.

For more information call 800-433-9258 or www.dewalt.com.



■ From Post-Crescent staff writer reports